

TAKE HIM TO COURT?

1 Cor 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 5:12 *Judge*: doesn't properly and effectively purge out old leaven...

Paul's issue with Corinthian believers: they were asking unsaved to judge their issues.

Taking saved brethren to court

Heathen tribunal – Bema Seat.

Brought divisive spirit into church.

I. PROBLEM.

1 Corinthians 6:1 *Dare*: Boldness, extreme, courageous.

A matter: Deed, affair. Complaint, subject of litigation.

Go to law: Take before legal system

Magistrate (Praetor)

Arbitrator (judex)

Counsel

Judgment

When take issue before the bar. Who see? Unconverted men!

And not before the saints. Christians in church.

Mac: ... *Believers who go to court with believers are more concerned with revenge or gain than with the unity of the Body and the glory of Jesus Christ. Disputes between Christians should be settled by and among Christians.*

II. SHAME. Failing to live up to position in Christ.

FIRST, saints judge world.

1 Corinthians 6:2

Dan 7:22 Judgment given unto saints during millennial kingdom

Matt 19:28 Apostles rule over 12 tribes of Israel.

Rev. 2:26-27; 3:23; 20:4 Share in Christ's millennial rule.

Gromaki: *We will rule over those believers in natural bodies who came into the kingdom out of the tribulation and by unsaved persons who are born after the kingdom has started.*

...are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

Surely you can apply biblical principles to matters within own church

SECOND: saints judge angels.

1 Corinthians 6:3

Angels: fallen angels. 2 Peter 2:4 Jude 1:6

Possibly means we have authority over holy angels of God.

Ephesians 1:20-23; 1 John 3:2

THIRD: judge ourselves (4-6)

1 Corinthians 6:4 Let the fools for Christ decide issues.

Mac: The poorest equipped believer, who seeks the counsel of Cod's Word and Spirit, is much more competent to settle disagreements between fellow believers than is the most highly trained and experienced unbelieving judge who is devoid of divine truth. Because we are in Christ, Christians rank above the world and even above angels. And by settling our own disputes, we give a testimony of our resources and of our unity, harmony, and humility before the world. When we go to public court, our testimony is the opposite.

1 Corinthians 6:5 Ought to be humiliated and embarrassed!

Bring disputes before one or more wise individuals in church for arbitration.

Wiersbe: Sometimes there are "friendly suits" that are required by law to settle certain issues.

Three ways to settle outside of court

1. Christian mediation service
2. Non-binding arbitration.
3. Binding arbitration.

Only should a person go to the court system as a last, absolutely last resort. ...It is a lose-lose situation. When you go through the court system you are playing to the dark side.....Lawyers have a "vested interest." To them it is a win-win situation.

1 Corinthians 6:6 Shameful thing-- Christians taking Christians into law suits before unsaved judges who do not see things as you do.

III. SOLUTION

1 Corinthians 6:7 *Utterly a fault:* you have already lost, suffered major defeat.

Take the wrong: let yourselves suffer wrong and be robbed

Suffer yourselves to be defrauded: let yourself be cheated.

Matthew 5:38-40

Christian attorney ... those who insisted on resolving their disputes in court became bitter and resentful--whether they won or lost their cases. If they went to court they always lost spiritually.

Defrauded: receive injury; suffer loss of property. All kinds of injury and insult.

1 Corinthians 6:8 Mac: ...*Spiritually, it is impossible for a Christian to sue and win.*